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GENERAL ASSEMBLY
Fifty-third session
Agenda item 62
QUESTION OF CYPRUS

SECURITY COUNCIL
Fifty-third year

Letter dated 9 October 1998 from the Permanent Representative of Cyprus to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Upon instructions from my Government and further to my letter dated 7 October 1998 (A/53/476-S/1998/935), I have the honour to draw your attention to a new violation of the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus and of the flight information region of Nicosia by military aircraft of the Turkish Air Force, recorded on 8 October 1998.

On that day, one CN-235 of the Turkish Air Force entered the northern part of the Nicosia flight information region, violating international air traffic regulations as well as the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus over the area of Mesaoria, and landed afterwards at the illegal airport of Tymbou in the occupied area of the Republic. Soon afterwards, the Turkish military plane took off and returned back to the Ankara flight information region.

As stated in my previous letters, such unauthorized intrusions into the Nicosia flight information region and the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus are in violation of international air traffic rules and, at the same time, are in contravention of the provisions of the Security Council resolutions on Cyprus, which state that such overflights increase tension on the island and undermine efforts towards achieving a final settlement.

On behalf of the Government of the Republic of Cyprus, I wish to strongly protest these new provocative acts by Turkey against the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the Republic of Cyprus, which are in blatant disregard of international law, the Charter of the United Nations and the relevant decisions of the Organization on the question of Cyprus. These continuing overflights by the Turkish Air Force, as well as the presence of the Turkish military occupation forces on the island, constitute the underlying causes of tension in Cyprus.

98-30484 (E) 141098

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I should be grateful if you would have the present letter circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 62, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Sotos ZACKHEOS
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

United Nations A/53/497 – S/1998/951

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General Assembly
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Security Council
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Support by the United Nations system of the efforts of Governments to promote and consolidate new or restored democracies

Maintenance of international security – prevention of the violent disintegration of States

Sustainable development and international economic cooperation: integration of the economies in transition into the world economy

Human rights questions

Letter dated 12 October 1998 from the Permanent Representative of Greece to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to draw to your attention the joint statement made by the Heads of State and Government of Bulgaria, Romania and Greece at their meeting in Delphi, Greece, on 4 October 1998 (see annex).

I would be grateful if you could have the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda items 33, 64, 93 (b) and 110, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Christos **Zacharakis**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

98-30526 (E) 151098

Annex

Joint statement made by the Heads of State and Government of Bulgaria, Romania and Greece at their meeting in Delphi, Greece, on 4 October 1998

The President of Bulgaria, Petar Stoyanov, the President of Romania, Emil Constantinescu, and the Prime Minister of Greece, Costas Simitis, accompanied by their Foreign Ministers, held their first trilateral summit meeting in Delphi, Greece, on 3 and 4 October 1998.

The three leaders, whose countries share a common European destiny, reaffirmed their commitment to principles of international law on peace, security and good-neighbourly relations, respect for the sovereignty, integrity and inviolability of external borders, as well as the recourse to the International Court of Justice to settle territorial differences, which are enunciated in the European Union Presidency's conclusions of the Luxembourg Council of December 1997 and in "Agenda 2000".

The Presidents of Bulgaria and Romania and the Prime Minister of Greece noted with satisfaction that their summit meeting highlighted the increasing cooperation among their three countries, a process started at Ioánnina, Greece, in 1995 with the meeting of their countries' Foreign Ministers. Since then, three further meetings of Foreign Ministers successfully took place. It was also noted with satisfaction that in 1998 the first meetings were held, in Thessaloniki, Greece, of the Ministers of Transport, Environment and Public Works and also of the Ministers of the Interior/Public Order of Bulgaria, Romania and Greece. The scope and context of this trilateral cooperation have thus greatly increased.

It was stressed that this cooperation has contributed importantly to the promotion of security, stability and cooperation in Europe as a whole, within the perspective of growing integration of the continent. Therefore, it was underlined that the close cooperation of all three countries, on a bilateral, trilateral and multilateral basis, should continue in all fields, notably in infrastructure networks, transport and energy, in promoting economic and trade relations in combating organized crime, terrorism, the illegal trafficking of drugs, weapons and radioactive and nuclear materials, economic crime, money-laundering and all other forms of non-conventional threats to security.

In this regard, they stressed the utmost importance of the implementation of pan European corridors IV, VII, VIII, IX, X and the trans-European priority project No. 7 – Via Egnatia and PATHE axis – which cross the three countries.

Despite ongoing conflict in the region and financial crisis in a larger context, the three leaders emphasized that their countries offered a stable political and economic environment for attracting international investment.

The three leaders noted with satisfaction the recent signing in Sofia, on 8 September 1998, of a protocol for the enhanced trilateral cooperation on combating crime and especially transborder crime. Particular emphasis was placed on the need for information-sharing and other joint coordinated activities between the customs authorities of the three countries, on a systematic basis, in order to ensure effective customs control. They further agreed that their Ministers of the Interior/Public Order and Justice should convene on a regular basis in joint meetings. They expressed support for the establishment in Bucharest of the Southeast European Cooperative Initiative Regional Centre for Combating Organized Crime and Corruption and the initiative of Bulgaria to host the Regional Coordinating Centre for Combating Illicit Drug Trafficking.

They welcomed the opening of the enlargement process of the European Union, in which Bulgaria and Romania participate as candidate countries. They regard the cooperation among their three countries as an additional means for Bulgaria and Romania to prepare for accession to the Union. They also stressed the importance of the continued "open-door" policy of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization and expressed their hope that concrete steps in that direction would be taken in the upcoming Washington summit, taking into account the need to enhance the alliance's decisive role in consolidating peace and stability in south-eastern Europe and on the continent as a whole. They also welcomed the recent signing of the agreement for the establishment of the Multinational Peace Force – South-Eastern Europe.

The Presidents of Bulgaria and Romania and the Prime Minister of Greece exchanged views on a wide range of regional and international issues.

Bulgaria, Romania and Greece, immediate neighbours of Yugoslavia, are deeply concerned that the escalation of the conflict in Kosovo has reached a crucial point; further negative developments could have serious consequences for the three countries and the region as a whole. The three leaders make an urgent and dramatic appeal to all sides involved, and in particular the Yugoslav authorities, to work for a negotiated settlement of the conflict in Kosovo and to fully implement Security Council resolution 1199 (1998), namely, a ceasefire should be put immediately into effect, and parties should come to the negotiating table without preconditions, aiming at achieving a peaceful solution for a large degree of autonomy for Kosovo within the internationally recognized borders of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia and respecting the rights and freedoms of all the inhabitants of Kosovo, so that another course of action can be avoided.

The three leaders expressed their support for the restoration of an effective political dialogue in Albania within the framework of democratic institutions. They called upon the Government and all political parties in Albania to take appropriate steps for building a state of law in Albania and for the effective functioning of its institutions. They welcomed and fully supported the relevant initiatives of the international community.

The Presidents of Bulgaria and Romania and the Prime Minister of Greece welcomed the increasing success of the initiatives in south-eastern Europe fostering regional dialogue and cooperation in all fields, both at the State level and among their respective civil societies, such as the Cooperation of South-Eastern European Countries, the Royaumont process on stability and good-neighbourliness in south-eastern Europe, the Southeast European Cooperative Initiative and the Black Sea Economic Cooperation. Following the historic first meeting of Heads of State and Government of countries of south-eastern Europe in Crete (3 and 4 November 1997) and the Istanbul meeting of the Ministers of Foreign Affairs (8 and 9 June 1998), they examined ways and possibilities of ensuring further progress during the Antalya Summit (12 and 13 October 1998). They noted that those initiatives served to foster the integration of countries of the region into the European and Euro-Atlantic structures.

The Presidents of Bulgaria and Romania and the Prime Minister of Greece, convinced that the comprehensive political dialogue they have established constitutes an effective platform to exchange views on matters of common interest, agreed to continue their summit meetings on a regular basis and to further promote the cooperation of their three countries, at the ministerial level and at the level of experts in all fields.

The next summit will take place in Bulgaria.

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(*Signed*) Christos **Zacharakis**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

* Reissued for technical reasons.

98-31505 (E) 211098

Annex

Meeting of the Heads of State and Government of Bulgaria, Romania and Greece
(Delphi, 4 October 1998)

Joint Statement

The President of Bulgaria, H.E. Petar Stoyanov, the President of Romania, H.E.. Emil Constantinescu, and the Prime Minister of Greece, H.E. Costas Simitis, accompanied by their Foreign Ministers, held their first Trilateral Summit Meeting in Delphi, Greece, on 3-4 October 1998.

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It was stressed that this cooperation has contributed importantly to the promotion of security, stability and cooperation in Europe as a whole, within the perspective of growing integration of the continent. Therefore, it was underlined that the close cooperation of all three countries, on a bilateral, trilateral and multilateral basis, should continue in all fields, notably in infrastructure networks, transport, energy, in promoting economic and trade relations in combating organised crime, terrorism, illegal trafficking of drugs, weapons, radioactive and nuclear materials,,economic crime, money-laundering and all other forms of non-conventional threats to security.

In this regard, they stressed the utmost importance of the implementation of those Pan European Corridors IV, VII, VIII, IX, X, and the Trans-European Priority Project No .7-Via Egnatia and PATHE Axis, that cross the three countries.

Despite ongoing conflict in the region and financial crisis in a larger context, the three leaders emphasised that their countries offer a stable political and economic environment for attracting international investment.

The three leaders noted with satisfaction the recent signing in Sofia on 8.9.98 of a Protocol for the enhanced trilateral Cooperation on Combating Crime and especially Trans- Border Crime. Particular emphasis was put on the need for information-sharing and other joint coordinated activities between the customs authorities of the three countries, on a systematic basis, in order to ensure effective customs control. They further agreed that their Ministers of Interior/Public Order and Justice should convene on a regular basis in joint meetings. They expressed support for the establishment in Bucharest of the SECI Regional Centre for Combating Organised Crime and Corruption and the initiative of Bulgaria to host the Regional Coordinating Centre for Combating Illicit Drug Trafficking.

They welcomed the opening of the enlargement process of the European Union, in which Bulgaria and Romania participate as candidate countries. They regard the cooperation between their three countries as an additional means for preparation of Bulgaria and Romania for accession to the EU. They also stressed the importance of the continued "open door" policy of NATO and expressed their hope that concrete steps in that direction shall be taken in the upcoming Washington Summit, taking into account the need to enhance the Alliance's decisive role in consolidating peace and stability in South-East Europe and the Continent as a whole. They also welcomed the recent signing of the agreement for the establishment of the Multinational Peace Force South-East Europe (MPFSEE).

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Bulgaria, Romania and Greece, immediate neighbours of Yugoslavia, are deeply concerned that the escalation of the conflict in Kosovo has reached a crucial point; further negative developments could have serious consequences for the three countries and the region as a whole. The three leaders make an urgent and dramatic appeal to all sides involved and in particular the Yugoslav authorities, to work for a negotiated settlement of the conflict in Kosovo and fully implement UNSCR 1199, namely a cease-fire should be put immediately into effect, parties should come to the negotiating table without preconditions, aiming at achieving a peaceful solution for a large autonomy for Kosovo within the internationally recognized borders of the FR of Yugoslavia and

respecting the rights and freedoms of all the inhabitants of Kosovo, so that another course of action be avoided.

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The Presidents of Bulgaria and Romania and the Prime Minister of Greece, convinced that the comprehensive political dialogue they have established constitutes an effective platform to exchange views on matters of common interest, agreed to continue their Summit Meetings on a regular basis and to further promote the cooperation of their three countries, on both a Ministerial and experts level, in all fields.

The next Summit will take place in Bulgaria.

and relevant Security Council resolutions and demands that UNITA comply immediately and without conditions with its obligations, in particular the complete demilitarization of its forces and full cooperation in the immediate and unconditional extension of State administration throughout the national territory;

2. Demands also that UNITA withdraw immediately from territories which it has reoccupied through military action;

3. Stresses that there can be no military solution to the conflict in Angola and calls upon the Government of Angola and in particular UNITA to seek a political settlement;

4. Decides to extend the mandate of the United Nations Observer Mission in Angola (MONUA) until 3 December 1998;

5. Requests the Secretary-General to continue to adjust the deployment and force structure of MONUA, as needed, in accordance with security conditions and its ability to implement its mandate in support of the peace process, and to prepare further contingency plans;

6. Emphasizes that the extension of the mandate of MONUA provides the Special Representative of the Secretary-General with an additional opportunity to revive the stalled peace process and strongly urges UNITA to take advantage of this period to transform itself into a genuine political party and to secure a legitimate and constructive role in the Angolan political process;

7. Reiterates its full support for the implementation of the Lusaka Protocol and for the reactivation of the Joint Commission;

8. Calls upon the Government of Angola and UNITA to cooperate fully with the Special Representative of the Secretary-General, including facilitation of his contacts with all those key to the peace process in order to convey, inter alia, the demands reiterated in the present resolution;

9. Encourages the Special Representative of the Secretary-General to coordinate his efforts with regional and subregional organizations in order to bring about a solution within the framework of the Lusaka Protocol;

10. Reiterates its concern over the safety and security of MONUA personnel and demands that the Government of Angola and UNITA guarantee unconditionally the safety and freedom of movement of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General and all United Nations and international humanitarian personnel, including those providing humanitarian assistance, throughout the territory of Angola;

11. Stresses the importance of strengthening the rule of law and respect for human rights, including the full protection of all Angolan citizens throughout the national territory, in particular representatives and members of all political parties;

12. Expresses its deep concern at the continued deterioration of the humanitarian situation, especially the significant increase in the number of internally displaced persons, which now totals 1.3 million people, and the lack of access by humanitarian organizations to vulnerable groups;

13. Calls on Member States to implement fully the measures imposed on UNITA contained in the relevant provisions of resolutions 864 (1993) of 15 September 1993, 1127 (1997) of 28 August 1997 and 1173 (1998) of 12 June 1998, and expresses its readiness to consider appropriate reinforcing steps;

14. Requests the Chairman of the Committee established pursuant to resolution 864 (1993) to investigate reports that the leader of UNITA travelled outside Angola in violation of resolution 1127 (1997) and that UNITA forces received military training and assistance as well as arms from outside Angola in violation of resolution 864 (1993);

15. Requests the Secretary-General to submit a comprehensive report no later than 23 November 1998 which will enable the Security Council to consider the future role of the United Nations in Angola and to make recommendations regarding ways of improving the implementation of the measures referred to in paragraph 13 above;

16. Expresses its deep concern at the crash of the Russian civilian aircraft in the Malange region of Angola which resulted in the loss of human lives, calls upon the Government of Angola to carry out without delay a thorough investigation of the causes of the crash, requests MONUA to assist as appropriate, and insists that UNITA cooperate fully with these efforts;

17. Decides to remain actively seized of the matter.

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LETTER DATED 14 OCTOBER 1998 FROM THE CHARGE D'AFFAIRES A.I. OF THE PERMANENT MISSION OF YUGOSLAVIA TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

I have the honour to transmit herewith the information on the endorsement by the Government of the Yugoslav Republic of Serbia of the accord reached by Slobodan Milosevic, President of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, and the United States Special Envoy, Richard Holbrooke (see annex).

I would be grateful if you would have the present letter and its annex distributed as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Vladislav JOVANOVIĆ
Chargé d'affaires a.i.

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Annex

The Serbian Government endorsed the accord reached by President Milosevic

The Serbian Government held a session on Tuesday chaired by Prime Minister Mirko Marjanovic to discuss a report presented by Serbian President, Milan Milutinovic, on the political talks held by the President of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, Slobodan Milosevic, with the Special Envoy of the United States of America, Richard Holbrooke.

President Milutinovic informed the Government of the talks held for several days between President Milosevic and Mr. Holbrooke and Christopher Hill and of the final accord reached on Monday on resolving the problems in Serbia's southern province of Kosovo and Metohija in a peaceful way and by political means.

President Milutinovic presented to the Government a full report on the talks, especially on the interest of the international community in full-scale monitoring of the situation in Kosovo and Metohija.

It has been agreed that the task should be carried out by a mission of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) as the best way of enabling the international community to verify the positive trends under way.

The fact that a positive approach has been adopted is very important, as it will form the basis for a lasting political solution for the autonomy of Kosovo and Metohija within Serbia, in line with the principles of equality of all citizens and ethnic communities living in the area.

In addition, a political framework has been worked out and agreement has been reached on the principles of a political solution and on a timetable framework for its realization, which is an important achievement. The principles are the following:

1. A political approach and a peaceful solution of problems in Kosovo and Metohija, achieved through dialogue, are the only acceptable means for reaching any lasting, just and humane solution to all open issues.

2. Violence and terrorism, as inadmissible means, contrary to all international norms, must stop immediately.

3. Any solution for Kosovo and Metohija must respect the territorial integrity and sovereignty and internationally recognized boundaries of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, in full compliance with the basic principles of the Charter of the United Nations, the Helsinki Final Act and the Paris Charter of OSCE.

4. The solution has to be based on the full respect for the equality of all citizens and national communities in Kosovo and Metohija. Full affirmation

and equal treatment of their national, confessional and cultural values and historic patrimony should be guaranteed.

5. The future of Kosovo and Metohija lies in peace, equality, integration, economic prosperity and free and common life, not in ethnic, confessional, cultural or any division or isolation.

6. The legal arrangements establishing Kosovo and Metohija's self-governance and the legal frameworks of the Republic of Serbia and the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia are to be harmonized in accordance with international standards and the Helsinki Final Act.

7. Citizens in Kosovo and Metohija shall govern themselves democratically through assemblies and executive and judicial organs of Kosovo and Metohija. Within nine months, there will be free and fair elections for Kosovo and Metohija authorities, including those at the communal level. The Government of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia hereby invites OSCE to supervise those elections to ensure their openness and fairness.

8. Members of the national communities shall have additional rights in order to preserve and express their national, cultural, religious and linguistic identities in accordance with international standards and the Helsinki Final Act. The national communities shall be legally equal and shall not use their additional rights so as to endanger the rights of other national communities or other rights of citizens.

9. In the context of the political settlement for Kosovo and Metohija, which will devolve many responsibilities to the communal level, police under local-communal direction will be established. These local police, which will be representative of the local population, will be coordinated by administrative organs of Kosovo. The settlement must address the security of all citizens and national communities.

10. No person will be prosecuted in State courts for crimes related to the conflict in Kosovo, except for crimes against humanity and international law, as set forth in chapter XVI of the Federal Penal Code. In order to facilitate full transparency, the State will allow complete, unimpeded access to foreign (including forensic) experts, along with State investigators.

11. The competent organs shall re-examine, with the aim of extraordinary mitigation of the punishments, the sentences of the sentenced members of the national communities in Kosovo and Metohija for criminal offences motivated by political aims.

Timetable

By Wednesday, 14 October, a comprehensive timetable will be agreed upon building on the following elements:

- By 19 October, an agreement on the status of the international presence, including verification, OSCE and other elements;

- By 2 November, the completion of an agreement containing core elements for a political settlement in Kosovo and Metohija using, as a basis, the paper proposed by the Contact Group (2 October 1998);

- By 9 November, the completion of rules and procedures for elections.

The Serbian Government has fully endorsed the accords that have been reached, as they fully preserve the territorial integrity and sovereignty of the country, avert a conflict and lay the conditions for a political dialogue on the basis of the principle that all solutions must be within the framework of the legal systems of the Republic of Serbia and the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia.

The Serbian Government decided to propose that the Yugoslav Government accept the accords that have been reached.

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Fifty-third session
Agenda items 45 and 93
THE SITUATION IN AFGHANISTAN AND ITS IMPLICATIONS FOR INTERNATIONAL PEACE AND SECURITY
SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AND INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC COOPERATION

SECURITY COUNCIL
Fifty-third year

Letter dated 13 October 1998 from the Permanent Representatives of the Russian Federation and Uzbekistan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

We have the honour to transmit herewith the texts of the Joint Communiqué on the results of the State visit by the President of the Russian Federation, Mr. B. N. Yeltsin, to Uzbekistan, and of the Joint Statement of the Presidents of Uzbekistan and the Russian Federation on the situation in Afghanistan, adopted on 12 October 1998 (see annexes I and II).

We should be grateful if you would have this letter and its annexes circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda items 45 and 93, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) S. LAVROV
Ambassador
Permanent Representative of the
Russian Federation to the
United Nations

(Signed) A. VOHIDOV
Ambassador
Permanent Representative of
Uzbekistan to the
United Nations

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ANNEX I

Joint Communiqué issued on 12 October 1998 on the results of the State visit to Uzbekistan by the President of the Russian Federation, B. N. Yeltsin

On 11 and 12 October 1998, a State visit of the President of the Russian Federation, Mr. B. N. Yeltsin, to Uzbekistan took place at the invitation of the President of Uzbekistan, Mr. I. A. Karimov.

Mr. Karimov and Mr. Yeltsin held talks in which they reviewed the status of and prospects for the development of Russian-Uzbek relations, as well as urgent international and regional problems. The talks took place in the atmosphere of friendship, mutual understanding and constructiveness that is traditional for meetings of the leaders of the two countries.

The Heads of State confirmed that the multifaceted cooperation between Uzbekistan and the Russian Federation, conducted in accordance with the Treaty on foundations for inter-State relations, friendship and cooperation of 30 May 1992 and the Declaration on the development and intensification of all-round cooperation of 2 March 1994, is based on the principles of equality, mutual confidence and respect for national sovereignty.

They noted with satisfaction that Uzbek-Russian relations have recently been characterized by a strengthening of strategic partnership and have become increasingly dynamic. They expressed the deep conviction that Uzbekistan and the Russian Federation will continue in future to move along the road of ever-closer and more intensive cooperation.

An important practical step in this respect was the signing of the Treaty between Uzbekistan and the Russian Federation on the intensification of economic cooperation over the period 1998-2007, and the approval of the related programme of action, which open up new long-term prospects for mutually advantageous development of trade, cooperation in the field of production, investment and scientific and technical cooperation in key areas and direct links between regions and economic agents.

The Presidents called for a stepping up of the activity of the Intergovernmental Commission on Economic Cooperation.

The Russian side remains interested in opening consular offices in Uzbekistan, and confirms its readiness to take into account possible similar desires on the part of the Uzbek side.

The two sides agreed to give further consideration to the possibility of signing documents on the legal status of nationals of one country permanently resident in the territory of the other country and on regulation of the process of resettlement, and of protecting the rights of immigrants, and using labour resources and migration of the labour force.

A package of intergovernmental and interdepartmental agreements supplementing and improving the treaty basis for bilateral relations was also signed in the context of the visit.

In discussing foreign policy problems, the Heads of the two States called for an intensification of cooperation and for closer coordination of efforts in the interests of ensuring international peace, stability and security at the regional and global levels.

A Declaration on all-round cooperation among Uzbekistan, the Russian Federation and Tajikistan was signed. Mr. Karimov and Mr. Yeltsin were in agreement that this document will play an important role in strengthening relations of strategic partnership and equitable and mutually advantageous cooperation among the three States, and will be an effective instrument for ensuring peace, security and stability in the region. The Presidents confirmed the intention of Uzbekistan and the Russian Federation to continue cooperation with the United Nations, other international organizations and the guarantor States in promoting the peace process in Tajikistan on the basis of comprehensive implementation of the General Agreement on the Establishment of Peace and National Accord in that country, and also of its economic recovery and development. In this context, the Presidents called on the parties involved in the settlement process to manifest good will and State wisdom and to cooperate constructively within the Commission on National Reconciliation.

Mr. Karimov and Mr. Yeltsin expressed serious concern at the situation in Afghanistan and the negative consequences and escalation of the inter-Afghan armed confrontation may have for the Central Asian States and the Russian Federation. A joint statement of the Presidents of Uzbekistan and the Russian Federation on the situation in Afghanistan was adopted, and is being published in the press (see annex II).

The Presidents of Uzbekistan and the Russian Federation noted the urgency of improving the activity of the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS), and of reforming its structures and mechanisms taking into account the interest of all parties in CIS, the experience that has been gained and the new political and economic realities within the Commonwealth. They call for a continuation of the committed search for joint solutions within the special inter-State forum of CIS.

They expressed the conviction that the fruitful results of the State visit of the President of the Russian Federation to Uzbekistan will be a milestone in opening up new possibilities for the expansion and intensification of Russian-Uzbek cooperation.

Mr. Yeltsin expressed gratitude to the leadership and people of Uzbekistan for the warm welcome extended to him, and invited the President of Uzbekistan, Mr. I. A. Karimov, to visit the Russian Federation. The invitation was gratefully accepted. The time of the visit will be agreed upon at a later date.

ANNEX II

Joint declaration by the Presidents of Uzbekistan and the Russian Federation on the situation in Afghanistan

The Presidents of Uzbekistan and the Russian Federation expressed serious concern at the situation in Afghanistan and the possible negative consequences for the Central Asian States and the Russian Federation of an escalation in the inter-Afghan armed confrontation.

The Presidents consider that the main cause for the continuation of this fratricidal war is the position of the "Taliban" Movement, which openly disregards the relevant resolutions of the United Nations containing the fundamental principles for a comprehensive political settlement of the Afghan conflict, including Security Council resolution 1193 (1998) of 28 August 1998.

Interference in the internal affairs of Afghanistan by certain outside forces and the establishment in that country of an extremist regime which brutally tramples on human rights and protects terrorism and drug trafficking create a direct threat to the sovereign borders of the Commonwealth of Independent States.

The Presidents again confirm their conviction of the need to maintain Afghanistan as a sovereign, independent, unified State, a full member of the international community and a good neighbour to other States.

To this end, Uzbekistan and the Russian Federation are prepared to cooperate closely at the bilateral and multilateral levels and to participate actively in the efforts being undertaken by the United Nations to channel the intra-Afghan armed conflict into a course of peaceful political solutions that are acceptable to all Afghans.

In particular, the Heads of State attach great importance to consultations within the "Group of friends and neighbours of Afghanistan" (the "six plus two" group), and support the provisions of the agreed document on the results of the meeting of the Group at the level of Ministers of Foreign Affairs in New York on 21 September 1998.

The Presidents support the proposal that the next meeting of this Group should be held in Tashkent with the participation of representatives of the various Afghan forces with a view to jointly developing possible ways of achieving a political solution to the Afghan conflict.

The Presidents call on the "Taliban" Movement and other influential Afghan forces both within the country and outside it to engage in constructive dialogue in the interests of preserving Afghan statehood and achieving a stable peace and an economic and cultural renaissance on Afghan soil.

In order to ensure this solution to the Afghan problem, there is a need for the immediate halting of all military actions in the territory of Afghanistan, the adoption and unconditional implementation by all the neighbours of the

Islamic State of Afghanistan and by other States of their obligations not to permit the delivery from or through their territory of arms and military equipment to any of the parties to the conflict, the prevention of any interference in intra-Afghan affairs and the formation of a broadly representative government with the participation of the various ethnic groups and political movements.

The Presidents emphasize that they cannot remain indifferent to the dangerous situation that is taking shape in and around Afghanistan, and will take all necessary appropriate measures.

The Presidents express the conviction that time and opportunities for a political settlement of the Afghan conflict have not yet been exhausted. Reason and good will must prevail.

I. A. KARIMOV
President of Uzbekistan

B. N. YELTSIN
President of the Russian Federation

UNITED NATIONS **S**

Security Council

Distr.
GENERAL

S/1998/955
15 October 1998

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

LETTER DATED 15 OCTOBER 1998 FROM THE CHARGÉ D'AFFAIRES A.I. OF THE PERMANENT MISSION OF YUGOSLAVIA TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

I have the honour to transmit herewith the statement of the Federal Government of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia on the agreement between the President of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, Slobodan Milosevic, and the American envoy Richard Holbrooke (see annex).

I would be grateful if you would have the present letter and its annex published as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Vladislav JOVANOVIC
Chargé d'affaires a.i.

98-30669 (E) 151098

/...

Annex

Statement issued on 14 October 1998 by the Federal Government of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia

At its meeting this evening, chaired by Momir Bulatovic, President of the Federal Government, the Federal Government fully supported the agreement between the President of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, Slobodan Milosevic, and American envoy Richard Holbrooke. This agreement ensures that all issues in Kosovo and Metohija be resolved in a peaceful manner, solely by political means, respecting the territorial integrity and sovereignty of the Republic of Serbia and the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, and eliminates the threat of military intervention against our country.

The Federal Government fully supported the decisions and positions which, with a view to implementing the agreement, were agreed upon by the President of the Republic of Serbia, Milan Milutinovic, and the Government of the Republic of Serbia.

The Federal Government approved the text of the Agreement between the Federal Government of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia and the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) on the OSCE Kosovo verification mission. The Federal Government has authorized the Federal Minister for Foreign Affairs, Zivadin Jovanovic, to sign, on behalf of the Federal Government of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, this agreement with the Chairman-in-Office of OSCE, Bronislaw Geremek, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Poland.

As part of the verification and compliance with Security Council resolution 1199 (1998), the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia will permit non-combat aircraft to observe, for purposes of peaceful verification, the situation in Kosovo.

The Federal Government assessed that the achieved agreement provided for the preservation of peace not only in the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia but in the region and Europe as well, and enabled that creative energy be directed at accelerated economic prosperity and development, good-neighbourliness and comprehensive cooperation in the region.

UNITED NATIONS **S**

Security Council

Distr.
GENERAL

S/1998/956
16 October 1998

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

LETTER DATED 15 OCTOBER 1998 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF ERITREA TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

On instructions from my Minister for Foreign Affairs, I have the honour to forward to you the enclosed statement of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the State of Eritrea issued on 14 October 1998 concerning a new map that has been circulated by the Ethiopian Foreign Ministry to diplomatic missions in Addis Ababa.

I would be grateful if you would circulate the present letter and its annex as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Haile MENKERIOS
Permanent Representative

98-30763 (E) 161098

/...

Annex

Statement issued by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Eritrea on 14 October 1998

Ethiopia's new map: deliberate confusion or surreptitious retraction?

Ethiopia's Ministry of Foreign Affairs is circulating a map to the diplomatic community in Addis Ababa. The map has also been widely distributed in schools and other government institutions.

The new map conforms with the international boundary between Eritrea and Ethiopia. In that sense, it may be a step in the right direction, as the Ethiopian Government will have rescinded, albeit indirectly, the Tigray administrative map that it issued in October 1997, which carves out, illegally, large chunks of Eritrean territory. Territorial encroachment by Ethiopian troops in July 1997 to occupy Bada and install a new Ethiopian administration there and incessant border markings in the Badme area for the rest of the year were prompted by the desire to create on the ground what was unilaterally delimited in the illegal map of the Tigray administrative region.

But there is a curious snag in the "latest" map too. Badme village is inexplicably displaced and "located" at the centre of "the Yirga triangle" inside Ethiopia which is shaded as "occupied territory".

That Badme village lies inside Eritrea, about 15 kilometres west of the boundary segment between the Mareb and Setit rivers, and was not contested by Ethiopia before. Indeed, the regime in Addis Ababa has been evoking tenuous arguments of "administrative presence" to justify its claims on the territory. At any rate, the accurate location of Badme village can easily be verified on the spot with appropriate equipment. Moreover, Eritrea has never occupied, and does not have any claims on, what is termed now as "the Yirga Triangle". This too can be verified easily by an independent investigation.

Ever since the eruption of the crisis, Eritrea has been insisting that Ethiopia declare, fully and clearly, the totality of its territorial claims. The statement issued by the Cabinet of Ministers of the Government of Eritrea on 14 May, just one day after Ethiopia's Parliament declared war on Eritrea called for "each party to publicly announce to the peoples of Eritrea, Ethiopia and the international community the territories it claims - if any - and designate them on the political map with clear geographical coordinates. Each party shall also accept that the dispute cannot, and should not, be resolved by force but through peaceful negotiations".

Ethiopia has balked at doing so in the past. It refused to submit the totality of its territorial claims to the Organization of African Unity in order to enable the latter to define the scope of the dispute. It also refused to publicly acknowledge or rescind the map that illegally incorporates many parts of Eritrean territory. Now, however, it has fabricated a different map, which purportedly establishes Eritrean "invasion" of Ethiopia.

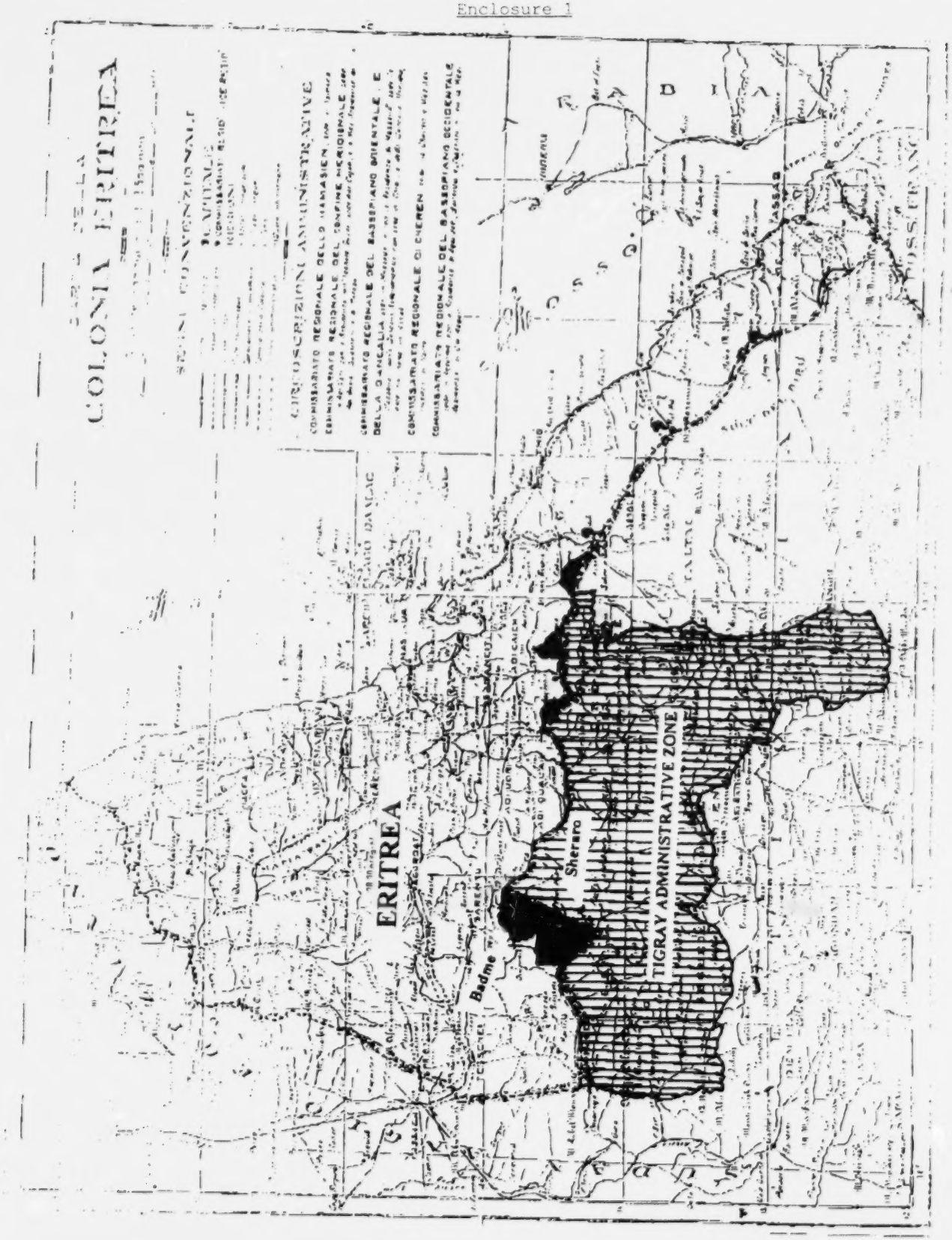
This muddle is deliberate and designed to obscure the cause of the conflict, but the Ethiopian regime cannot get away with this act of transparent duplicity. It must unequivocally and officially rescind the map of the Tigray administrative region that was published by the Mapping Authority of the central Government and express in clear terms that it respects Eritrea's international boundaries, which were established in accordance with the colonial treaties of 1900, 1902 and 1908. For its part, Eritrea asserts categorically that it has not occupied and does not have any claims on "the Yirga Triangle", which can be verified by independent inspection.

Enclosures:

1. The latest map distributed by Ethiopia's Foreign Ministry;

2. Ethiopia's territorial claims on Eritrea in accordance with the 1997 map of Tigray, issued under the auspices of Ethiopia's Mapping Authority.

Enclosure 1


COLONIA ERITREA
ERITREA
TIGRAY ADMINISTRATIVE ZONE
Sheraro
Badme

Enclosure 2

U D A N
ERITREA
RED SEA
Keren
Mitsiwa
Akordat
ASMERA
Barentu
Dekemehare
Gash
Mereb
Adi Keyih
Mendefera
Adi Aw-ala
Mereb
Tekeze
Sheraro
Adi Da-iro
Rama
Adigrat
Humera
Axum
Adwa
Tekeze
inda Silase
E T H I O P I A
Wikro
Abiy Adi
MEKELE
Debark
Dabat
Maychew

UNITED NATIONS **S**

Security Council

Distr.
GENERAL

S/1998/956*
20 October 1998

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

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(Signed) Haile MENKERIOS
Permanent Representative

* Reissued for technical reasons.

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on 14 October 1998

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Enclosure 1

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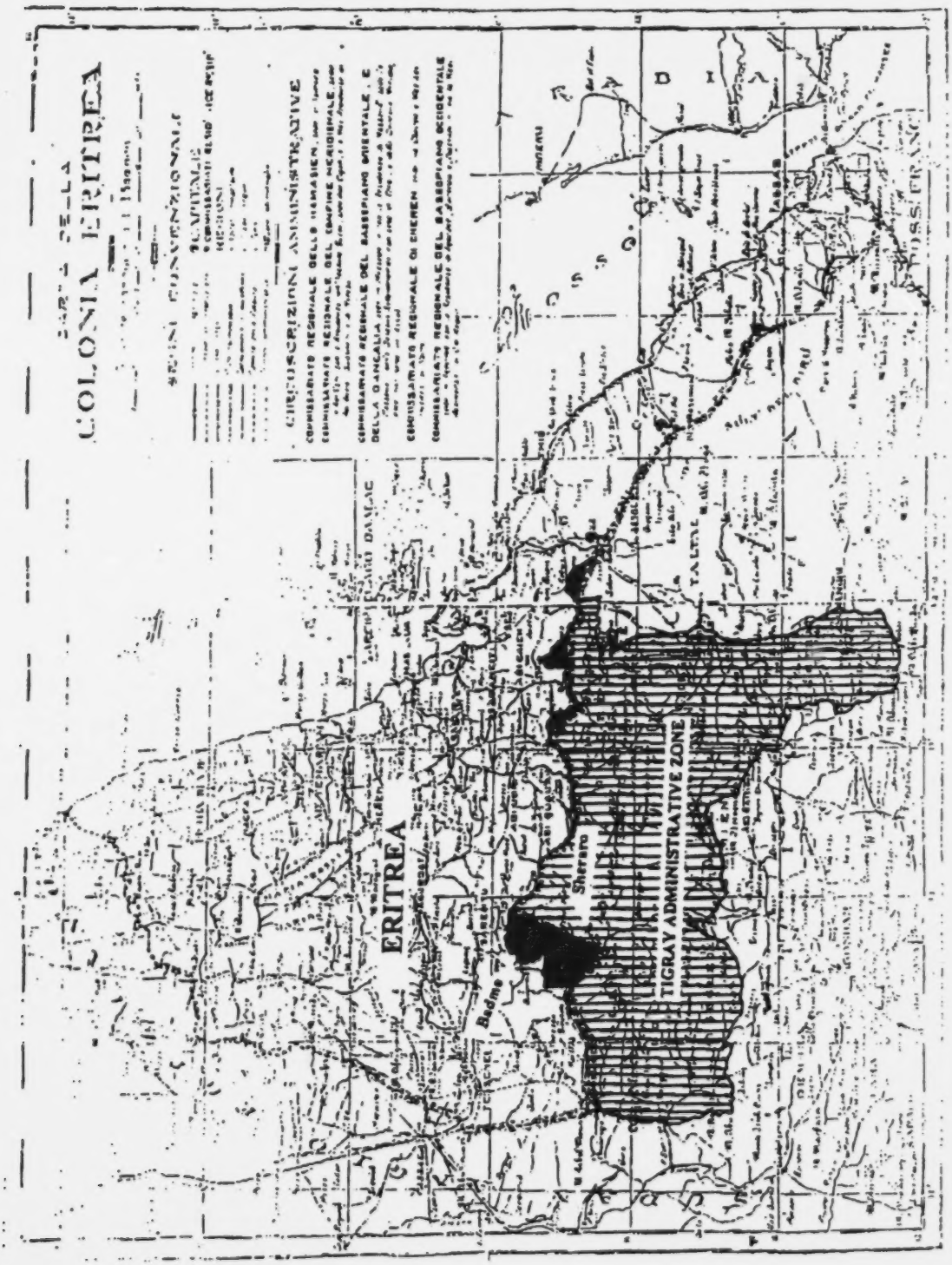
Adigrat
Humera
Axum
Adwa
Inda Silase
ETHIOPIA
Wikro
Abiy Adi
MEKELE
Debark
Dabat
Maychew

Enclosure 2


COLONIA ERITREA
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